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Luther Seminary educates leaders for Christian communities + called and sent by the Holy Spirit + to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ + and to serve in God’s world.

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Luther Seminary, the largest of the eight seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. It is a part of the ELCA’s Western Mission Cluster, along with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

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ABUNDANTLY GIFTED

Synod and Seminary Join Together for Stewardship 2003 pages 4-7 Stewardship Web site page 7 Preaching Stewardship page 8 Meet the Stewardship Council page 9 A Joyful Heart page 10 Also:
New D.Min. in Biblical Preaching page 14

LUTHER SEMINARY
2481 Como Avenue + St. Paul, MN 55108
The congregation sang “Earth and All Stars” as banner bearers led the recessional at the 134th commencement. The ceremony was held May 25 at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. This year 135 students received degrees.

Academic Excellence

Each year several awards for excellence are given to graduating students. The awards given this year are:

The Graduate Preaching Fellowship: Kristina Rahfeldt
The John Milton Prize in Old Testament: Robert Smith, Troy Troftgruben
The G.M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament: Debra Bergstrand, Troy Troftgruben
A.E. Hanson Prize in Homiletics: Christine Bellefeuille, Justin Lind-Ayres, Nathan Loer

The commencement speaker was the Rev. Dr. Marc Kolden, outgoing dean of academic affairs and current professor of systematic theology at Luther Seminary.

Newly hooded, Scott Johnson gave the graduate’s response.

Soon-to-be emeriti, Professor of Old Testament Daniel Simundson and Director of Continuing Education Peter Sethre were recognized during the ceremony for their teaching ministries.

A photograph.

New graduates Gayle Highness and Daniel Rakotofionandrasana ready themselves for a photograph.

Planting Trees

One of the church’s greatest stewardship teachers was an economist named Jim Bradick. His expertise was numbers. His heart was thankful, and his passion was helping every Christian become a steward. “Stewardship,” he would say, “is everything I do after I say, ‘I believe.’” Even as he lay dying, his gratitude was unshaken. The Stewardship Council at Luther Seminary sustains his commitment to equip our graduates to lead as stewards.

As you will read in this issue of Story, Luther Seminary continues to be blessed by a cadre of lay leaders and pastors who have a calling in stewardship education. Their stories are alive with the personal witness and example of mothers, grandfathers, pastors and school teachers. Stewardship is both “caught” when we see the joy of generosity in people and “taught” by faithful believers who make the effort to tell us why they give.

God’s grateful people are a surprise in a society that fuels our appetite for self-gratification and acquisition. Think about the saints who taught you an attitude of gratefulness. Where did they learn it? How did they convey it to you? How could you help others catch the contagion of thankfulness?

The stories are all around us because God has touched so many lives. Let me tell you about Galen and Peter, two saints whose stories gave me heart in the past few months.

Galen was a classmate in elementary school. Several of us town boys stayed overnight at his farm. The animals were fascinating and fearsome for us. The darkness of a winter night was deep between the barn and the house. Galen’s dad had the huge hands of a man who still plowed with horses, and his mother surrounded us with care and home cooking. Galen was a mechanical wizard. He has farmed the home place for almost 50 years.

We sat on his front porch in early July. The well water was as cool as I remembered it. The summer breeze was warm. The crops good. Galen’s grandchildren dashed in and out. “You don’t get rich farming,” he said. “But when I ride the tractor up and down the field, I have time to be thankful. My prayer is that all this food we are growing will reach the people who need it most.” He sat quiet while I caught my breath at his vision of abundance. The farmer’s prayer was the witness of a steward.

Peter came to Luther Seminary as a student from China in the early 1960s, then left to complete a doctorate in nuclear physics at the University of Minnesota. A decade ago, he left his academic post at the University of Washington to complete his ministry studies through the Theological Education for Emerging Ministers (TEEM) program. Both Peter and his wife Jane were ordained and serving a congregation in Eastern Washington when he was elected to the Luther Seminary board. Now they are ELCA missionaries in Hong Kong, fulfilling their life-long vocation.

Last year Peter led the devotions when our board members were making their financial commitments in support of the seminary’s mission. He told about the practice in the villages of China that when a girl was born, the family would bury cases of wine to be uncovered at the time of her wedding. And when the baby was a boy, the family would plant two trees. One tree would eventually be harvested for the wood for his funeral pyre and the other would be a community legacy, bearing fruit for generations to follow.

“Jane and I are deeply grateful for the ministry of the church that has come from this place and its graduates in China and throughout the world,” said Dr. Peter Shen, “We have decided to plant a tree at Luther Seminary through our legacy gift. We hope and pray that it will bear the fruit of the gospel for generations to follow.”

Thanks be to God for the lives and witness of grateful servants of our Lord Jesus Christ.

David L. Tiede
President
**Synod and Seminary Join Together for Stewardship 2003**

**Abundantly Gifted, Abundantly Pardoned**

By Melinda Melhus '01

The invitation promised a “life-changing weekend.” It may have seemed a tall order for the rostered staff of the ELCA’s Southwestern Minnesota Synod. They, along with their spouses, were invited to attend Stewardship 2003: Abundantly Gifted, Abundantly Pardoned, August 1-3, at Luther Seminary. Was it life changing for the 130+ participants? If gracious hospitality, amazing generosity, exemplary speakers and a general atmosphere of camaraderie, rest and renewal can change a person’s outlook on stewardship, this conference did do just that.

**Why Stewardship 2003?**

Co-sponsors Luther Seminary and the SW MN Synod had a two-fold purpose for the weekend event: to help support, equip and challenge participants in establishing personal stewardship goals and increase their confidence as stewardship leaders in their congregations and communities.

All participants, including keynote speakers and facilitators, committed to participating in the entire three-day event. At Stewardship 2003, participants examined stewardship from biblical, cultural, personal, pastoral and congregational perspectives. They also engaged with keynote speakers and increased their confidence as stewardship leaders.

They explored multiple facets of stewardship through keynote addresses, worship and devotion, workshops, small group discussion and mentoring. They also had ample time for personal growth and reflection.

All functions were held at Luther Seminary and the Radisson Roseville Hotel in St. Paul, Minn. Several individuals and organizations helped subsidize the event so that the cost to individuals was reasonable.

Meals, accommodations, information, fellowship, inspiration, pampering and focus were promised in the invitational flyer—but participants were not surprised by the gracious treatment they received at the event.

**DAILY DELIGHTS**

Welcome Stewardship 2003 participants, including a free car wash, compliments of members of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, New Ulm, Minn.

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**Synod and Seminary (continued)**

“Outrageous Hospitality”

“Remarkable hospitality and the assurance of God’s grace, as stated in the weekend’s biblical theme from Isaiah 55, provided the foundation for the Stewardship 2003 event.”

Stewardship was the primary focus but emphasis on the theme, Abundantly Gifted, Abundantly Pardoned, was clearly an intentional underlying message throughout the event from the moment participants arrived.

Volunteers provided valet parking, asking surprised guests to surrender their car keys. Meanwhile, other volunteers simultaneously grabbed their luggage and led participants to rooms with lovely accommodations.

Once registered, the clergy and lay guests were offered a variety of activities to enjoy and partake of as they began to relax and settle in for the weekend.

Options included refreshments, massage therapy, a stewardship confession booth, a workshop to explore biblical stewardship stories, aerobics at the pool, a game room, a special event coffee house complete with bluegrass music by Dick Kimmie, and square or line dancing.

Other special services were available throughout the event. The Stewardship Oasis offered space for private reflection, meditation or prayer.

“Members of our congregation encouraged us to go,” said Wayne Kopitzke, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, New Ulm, Minn. “It’s been great. Oh, but how shocking to allow someone to park your vehicle!”

Then to find a rose in our room!” someone at his table interjected.

“Plus, that lovely goodies bag filled with all sorts of treats and practical items,” another added.

Nods of agreement came from the three couples seated at the table, as their comments tumbled over one another.

Participants received a bonus perk as a group of students and adults from Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in New Ulm, Minn., washed their vehicles back at the hotel while they were at the seminary attending sessions.

Surprises continually awaited participants: hand-thrown coffee mugs from Clay Coyote Pottery in Hutchinson, Minn., green plants with Isaiah 55:12-13 printed on the attached card, devotions from Luther Seminary’s God Pause daily e-mail devotions under each participant’s door every morning. Framed prints of an original watercolor depiction of Isaiah 55 by Robyn Sand Anderson were presented to participants during the closing worship service.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Gary Langness, retired pastor, Diane Jacobson, professor of Old Testament and associate dean—specialized ministries, and Frank Thomas, senior pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, Tenn., and co-executive editor of The African American Pulpit, encouraged, exhorted and illuminated on the subject of stewardship. Thomas set the tone for the weekend, helping move participants from lament to praise in the first plenary session. Jacobson spoke on God as an enduring presence through all struggles. Langness shared lessons learned about stewardship from 35 years of parish ministry.
The one thing that means a lot to me there.
Lutheran Church, concurred.
Her husband Mike, pastor of Westbrook Lutheran churches, added.
what participants gained from
Responses were varied about
them into the parish.
load most new pastors carry with
to help with the high seminary debt
Luther Seminary's first Stewardship gift from participants who attended
Democratic Bank and Trust. Taibl
Taibl visited Todd Nelsen of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in New Ulm, Minn.
It kind of set the tone for me in
stewardship—personally as well as in
Minneapolis, Hoffman is committed
to the site. He requests stories, sermons
coordinator. It's his job to add content
to the site. He requests stories, sermons
and ideas from readers, seeks out and
posts materials, moderates links to other
helpful sites, and obtains permission
for reprints. He makes sure the information is ecumenical in scope.
Hoffman is also the editor of the site's e-mail newsletter, which goes out
as often as once a week. He has found
it has been very helpful in drawing people into the site. Currently there
are more than 1,100 subscribers.
“I'm finding that some pastors are
inviting all the members of their stewardship committees and members
of their congregations to subscribe,” he said.
Even though he is busy serving as
interim senior pastor at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in
Minneapolis, Hoffman is committed
to, and enjoys, his Web site work.
“I've been given the opportunity to
explore how people might experience
the joy of giving,” he said. “Stewardship
is so important to the vitality of a
congregation. When strong stewardship
is in place, you tap into the energy
of the people—they are active and
have passion. They don't spend their
time worrying about finances. They have
the resources for what they need to do
for their congregations to subscribe,” he said.
To visit the Stewardship for the
21st Century Web site, and to sign
up for its e-mail newsletter, visit
www.luthersem.edu/stewardship.
www.luthersem.edu/stewardship.
● Where does a congregation's stewardship committee go
to search for great ideas for
its big stewardship kick-off?
● Where do pastors get that
perfect illustration for their
sermons on giving?
● Where do lay leaders find
helpful resources and Bible
study guides on living as
Christian stewards?
The answer to all three is the same:
The Stewardship for the 21st Century Web site.
Stewardship for the 21st Century is a one-stop stewardship shop. It is
organized into five sections, making it
easy to browse for the items you need.
The Web site grew out of a Luther Seminary stewardship conference
in August 2000, which was attended
by recent alumnae and their spouses.
The Web site was created as a way for
the participants to stay connected and
continually learn about stewardship.
The site evolved so others could
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Preaching Stewardship

Preaching stewardship can be a joyful experience for both the preacher and the congregation. Just ask Gary Langness, 68. A retired pastor since 2002, Langness continues to share his passion for stewardship. He serves on Luther Seminary’s Stewardship Council (see page 9) and is a frequent contributor to the Stewardship for the 21st Century Web site (see page 7).

For Langness, preaching stewardship happens year round, is a joy-filled process, and begins even before the pastor steps foot in the pulpit. Here, he shares some basic principles. But first, he lays the ground rules.

First and foremost, provide pastoral care.

To begin with, it’s not just about preaching stewardship, says Langness. “I always start with a personal philosophy of pastoral care, which is at the heart of preaching,” he explains.

“Preaching stewardship begins in the hospital rooms, in homes, in caring for people in crisis. It’s how you earn the right to be their pastor and preacher.”

“But, when I got in the pulpit, people listened because they knew I cared about them. If you have a pastor’s heart, they will listen. If you are there when people are broken and hurting, they will connect with what you say in a real way. This is the basic premise to start from: first and foremost, provide pastoral care.

It’s God’s, not ours.

Hand in hand with pastoral care, Langness believes in a basic theological premise: God is the owner. We are the stewards. “If we believe this, then we understand that we have an obligation to preach about stewardship,” he says. “We have an opportunity to help folks grow and learn the joy of being a generous giver. And we have the privilege to ask. To understand stewardship from what Christ has done for us—why not give out of a grateful response?”

Steps to Preaching Stewardship

Begin with prayer. Before penning a single word, or clicking one key, pray for insight and understanding into the Scriptures. Pray for an open heart and an open mind.

Preach stewardship often. When you do preach about stewardship? At the very least whenever the texts appear in the lectionary. Some of the most meaningful times to preach about stewardship are when you are not in the middle of a stewardship program. Those who are reluctant to hear about stewardship during a fall program may well listen with different ears at other times says Langness. “Certainly you will preach about stewardship during the stewardship program and when you do, speak about the mission and ministry of your congregation and not just your budget. Focus on outreach. A preacher’s task is to help create a bigger vision of the world in which we live; to make people understand that being generous makes a difference in the world.”

Use the Bible. Looking at the biblical texts, Langness always tries to understand what it is trying to tell us and what the writer or Jesus had in mind. “Why is Jesus telling this story? What happened? Paint a picture for your congregation that fleshes out the story. You’ve got to have fun with this!”

Use illustrations. Look for ways to help people see how stewardship relates to the congregation, as people of God. Langness has found compelling illustrations in copies of Golf Digest, Dear Abby, and always through the stories of those who have taught him along the way. Help people understand by telling your own stewardship story. Perhaps you think your story is not very interesting, or, maybe it’s a shaky one, maybe you don’t like the story. Says Langness, but it will have an impact, and people will listen.

Don’t make excuses for people not to give. In your preaching do not make excuses for people, they have enough of their own, Langness likes to say. “I know it’s been a difficult year….” is not a good way to begin a sermon! “Understand that some people are never happy about giving and some may even tell you not to talk about giving. You must tell them it is a part of the gospel story and to...”

Preaching Stewardship (continued)

leave it out would be unfaithful and would do a great disservice to God and to them as people.”

Always invite others to give. In addition to speaking to the text for the day Langness has always asked or invited others to speak to the joy of giving and the need of the giver to give. From the very first book of the Bible, the image of God is one of an abundant, lavish giver. If we were created in God’s own image, then to deny that, we’re not allowing ourselves to what be God has created us to be, Langness says. “Think about people in your life, joyful happy people are generous people, generally. Misers aren’t joyful. They don’t know the freedom of ‘Hey, it’s not mine, I can give this stuff away! ’ It is a privilege as pastors to invite people to give.” And make it personal, Langness would usually state something like, “Carol (his spouse) and I invite you to join us in learning and growing in our stewardship.”

Encourage people to share their many talents. “They do not need to be the best at something. There would only be one of everything if there can only be one best. It’s about being the best that they can be to their own ability,” says Langness.

Say thank you! Don’t shame people into giving. Preaching stewardship should never be about scolding or laying the blame. Langness exhorts. “Always say thank you, for what they have done, what they are doing, and for what they will do in the future as they grow toward becoming a generous and joyful giver.” But always couch this within the climate of the congregation, he adds, in order to set a positive tone for people to hear the stewardship sermons with willing ears and open hearts.

Stewardship Council Members Give Their Time to Teach Students about Giving

Luther Seminary makes sure students have the opportunity to learn—and take to heart—the principles of stewardship. As their guide, they have a group of dedicated volunteers called the Luther Seminary Stewardship Council. This team of lay leaders and clergy believes that stewardship is a joy and a natural part of Christian living.

“The vision of the council is to foster the development of Christian stewards and stewardship leaders in the students of Luther Seminary,” said Nan Grube, chair of the Stewardship Council since 1993. The council has done this in a variety of ways. Most notably, it holds yearly seminars for seniors and their spouses. It also advocates teaching stewardship in the classroom.

In 2001 the council created a stewardship sermon prize for interns. Each year interns are invited to submit a sermon they wrote and preached on stewardship. An audiobpe of the sermon must accompany the entry. As incentive the first prize is $500.

This year the new interns also received a book of stewardship sermons from the council.

Stewardship Council:

Mark Beres, Pastor
Guthrie Lane Lutheran, MInnopis, Minn.
Paul M. Cross, Pastor
St Mary Magdalene Lutheran Church, Savage, Minn.
Paul Cullen, Prophetsville, Minn.
Nan Grube, Minneapolis, Minn.
Jerry Hertzbollem., Plymouth, Minn.
Deborah Hennerty, Student, Hudson, Wis.
Gary L. Langness, Retired Pastor, Lilydale, Minn.
Rebecca Larsen, Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.
Harris Lee, Retired Pastor, Minneapolis, Minn.
Anne Looby, South St. Paul, Minn.
Christopher P. Nelson, Pastor
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.
Robert (Rob) H. Nelson, Pastor
Luther Seminary Church, Zumbrota, Minn.
Joel M. Quie, Pastor
Prairie Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, Minn.
Neman W. Wald, Pastor
Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minn.
Patrick Zeman, Student, New Prag, Minn.
Luther Seminary Staff:

Pam F.J. Ullman, Dean of Students
Luther Seminary, Office Manager
Contextual Ministry Education
Glenn R. Tidie, Major Gifts Consultant
David L. Tidie, President

The Stewardship Council also presented at FirstWeek, Luther Seminary’s week-long orientation for new students.

Council is a Gift of Stewardship in Itself

The Luther Seminary Stewardship Council was born out of a concern. James Braulick was a businessman from Northfield, Minn. who believed passionately in the need for Christian stewardship. How can Luther Seminary teach this, he asked. President David Tiede took Braulick’s question under advisement, and devised a volunteer council of lay leaders and pastors to see students’ stewardship education. In addition, one or two seminarians serve as student liaisons. Braulick served as the first chair of the Stewardship Council, but died just a year later. His legacy continues, however, as does that of Arthur Larson, an engineer who created an endowment for stewardship education. Larson died in 1999, but the council uses income from his gift to continue their ministry.

Contextual Ministry Education

The Lutheran Seminary Stewardship Council promotes the education of Christian stewards and develops church leaders who will provide Christian resources in areas beyond the pulpit. To that end, the council sponsors a Stewardship Council Spirit of Stewardship Award which recognizes students or groups that exemplify the spirit of stewardship in their lives and church communities. Additionally, the council provides annual scholarships to students who wish to pursue a career in stewardship. For more information, please contact the Stewardship Council at (612) 878-4286 or via email: stewardship@lutherseminary.org.
I

Since the small children liked to come and visit her, she decided that she would teach them to pray before they received their cookies. Since the small children liked to come and visit her, she decided that

she would teach them to pray before they received their cookies. Soon they were hearing the Bible stories from Agnes and going to Vacation Bible School with her. Although the family moved out of town a few years later, Agnes believed that the children had received the foundations of faith that would remain with them the rest of their lives.

One day I called Agnes and said that I would be coming through town the following week and was wondering if we could have lunch together. Rather than the usual yes, she said she didn’t feel up to it and would have to pass. Some time later I learned that she was suffering from colon cancer and seemed to be slipping.

I called again and asked her if there was anything I could do for her. After a short pause she said that she would appreciate receiving some materials from our bookstore on the Holy Spirit—the subject of her current Bible study. Before too long I received a phone call from another relative telling me that Agnes had passed away.

Expecting a relatively small funeral, I was overwhelmed when the church was filled for her funeral. Apparently Agnes had touched many, many lives in that small town. Oh yes, I almost forgot—although Agnes remained active and in good spirits, she was alone but not discouraged. Although physical ailments were beginning to catch up with her, Agnes continued to be an example of one who truly lived her life as though Jesus were watching—she was the model of faith that would remain with them the rest of their lives.

A Joyful Heart and a Child-like Faith

How one woman touched the lives of many.

Since the small children liked to come and visit her, she decided that she would teach them to pray before they received their cookies.

By Brad Reiners, associate vice president for planned giving

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It isn’t often that you get a second chance to meet someone for the first time, but that is what happened when I first received a telephone call at home from Agnes. You see, Agnes was a distant relative of mine that I first met many years before as a small boy. Although I knew where she lived, our paths never seemed to cross.

That changed when I received a phone call from Agnes at home one evening. Agnes always got to the point quickly and this evening was no exception. She asked, “Can I give you some money to help train pastors? That’s what you do isn’t it?” I said yes to both questions and arranged to meet her at her home the following week. Although she got to the point quickly on the phone, it was a different story when we sat down at the kitchen table. Knowing that we would eventually get around to why I was there, we began catching up on years of family history. As the memories flowed around the table, I began to catch a glimpse of this remarkable person. Agnes and her husband, Gilbert, never had children; following his death many years before, she was alone but not discouraged. Although physical ailments were beginning to catch up with her, Agnes remained active and in good spirits. In fact, the only times I saw frustration in her were when she was immobilized by broken bones. Agnes lived across the street from her church and spent much of her time volunteering there. Her home was where she ate and slept; her church was where she lived. She told me that she loved telling children about Jesus. For example, when Agnes was young, she was where she ate and slept; her church was where she lived. She told me that she loved telling children about Jesus. For example, when Agnes was young, she

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Herb Cleveland:
Serving the Nation’s Vets

By Nancy Giguere, special correspondent

When Herb Cleveland talks to teens preparing for confirmation, he sometimes issues a gentle challenge: “I’m not going to be doing this forever. And if I don’t have anyone to give my stoles to—I think they would fit you.”

Cleveland, ’59, is passionate about helping people identify their gifts for ministry. Soft-spoken but persuasive, he has inspired seven individuals to enroll at Luther. “He wants the church to grow and be sustained, and he encourages people to serve at all levels,” says Dwight Stensgaard, senior pastor at Calvary Lutheran in Rapid City, South Dakota, where Cleveland now serves as supply pastor.

Ministering to the Wounded

An army veteran who served in Korea, Cleveland had always considered becoming a military chaplain. “The chaplain seemed to me to be a real point of comfort and sanctity, someone who could give people a real sense of direction and hope,” he says.

After graduating from Luther, Cleveland was called to Bethel Lutheran in Lead, S.D., only 30 miles from the veterans hospital at Fort Meade. During visits to hospitalized parishioners, he saw a great need for chaplains with battlefield experience. Patients at that time included veterans of both world wars and the Korean conflict. Many suffered from “battle fatigue” or post-traumatic stress disorder.

“In that setting, you need the background of military experience,” Cleveland says. “You need to understand the loss of life, the blood, the bullets flying overhead, the explosions, the artillery, and the armor. I was able to talk with patients and understand what they were going through.”

Cleveland (continued)

Serving Everyone

Cleveland soon became full-time chaplain at the hospital, a post he held during the 1960s and ’70s. His daughter Elizabeth remembers: “There wasn’t much that would move the patients to a smile, but Chaplain Cleveland was able to do that. Even today, when he shows up at the VA hospital, many of the vets still remember him and maneuver themselves over to see and touch him.”

Because many veterans at the hospital were Native American, Cleveland arranged for powwows where they could be honored as warriors. He also had a sweat lodge built so that they could benefit from their traditional healing ceremonies. “The government puts us in the hospital to serve everyone. If we can’t help someone ourselves, we have to find someone who can,” he says.

During the Vietnam War, Fort Meade became a center for research and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and the alcohol and drug abuse that often resulted. Cleveland traveled frequently to Washington, D.C., where he served on task forces and commissions that considered ways to make treatment more effective.

Directing the Chaplain Service

In 1982, Cleveland was named Deputy Chief of Chaplain Service. Six years later, President Ronald Reagan appointed him Director of Chaplain Service. In that position, he supervised over 1,200 chaplains throughout the United States. One of his first acts was to authorize a task force on clinical pastoral education (CPE). CPE eventually became a requirement for VA chaplaincy, and the service established its own school for chaplains in Hampton, VA.

During Cleveland’s tenure, the service appointed its first Buddhist and Muslim chaplains. Cleveland also supported the creation of the National Black Chaplains Association and appointed the first women to the VA chaplaincy. The appointment of women proved controversial, and some chaplains resigned rather than work with women. But Cleveland was undeterred. “If women could serve as enlisted or officers in active combat roles, there was no reason they couldn’t be chaplains,” he says.

The Cold War Concludes

In 1987 as the cold war was coming to an end, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came to Washington. It was an “electrifying visit,” Cleveland says. When Gorbachev allowed the armed forces to re-establish chaplaincy services, Cleveland made several trips to Moscow to consult with the Soviets. Russian Orthodox clergy also trained with VA chaplains in Virginia.

A Wonderful Adventure

Cleveland attributes his successful ministry to God’s grace. “He can use anyone—his grace is so great.” He also praises his family—wife Constance and children Laurie, Elizabeth, Robert, and Timothy—for supporting his work.

Looking back over his long service to America’s veterans, Cleveland says, “I would not change my calling for anything. It’s been a wonderful adventure.”

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Practicing Preachers: Is it Time to Breathe New Life into Your Sermons?

Consider the New D.Min. in Biblical Preaching

Enjoy preaching? Yearn to speak God’s word in a way that touches your listeners deeply, and strengthens their faith? Want a high-quality education that leads to a new level of competence? Then you may be the perfect candidate for Luther Seminary’s new doctor of ministry in biblical preaching.

Part of Luther Seminary’s strategic plan is to become a center of excellence for both biblical preaching and congregational mission and leadership. The seminary has already instituted the D.Min. in congregational mission and leadership. Now, it plans to launch its second D.Min. program, the D.Min. in congregational mission and leadership.

There’s a reason “biblical” partners with “preaching” in the degree title. The entire program is permeated with the theological vision that preaching should be rooted in God’s dynamic word as it is recorded in the Scriptures, and brought to lively expression in the proclamation of the gospel.

“People don’t know the Bible the way they used to,” says Mary Hinkle, assistant professor of New Testament, and one of the key faculty of the new biblical preaching degree. “How should pastors respond to that? Bring the Bible to life for people. Enliven your own preaching for people for whom the story is sometimes new.”

People are yearning to hear the narrative, the stories of the Bible, according to Michael Rogness, professor of homiletics. “They’re facing biblical illiteracy. The Chicken Soup of the Soul-type preaching was popular, but now people want to hear what the Bible has to say.”

Along with focusing on the biblical aspect of preaching the new D.Min. in biblical preaching is:

- Practical—It works to develop the skills of practicing preachers, enhancing the work they do for the communities in which they serve.
- Colloidal—Participants enter, work and graduate as a class/cohort.
- Spiritual—Participants have the opportunity to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ and their commitment to, and understanding of, their vocation.

It is also ecumenical. A long with non-Lutheran participants, many of the top-notch guest lecturers will come from denominations other than Lutheran and will share a wealth of knowledge and richness of preaching garnered from their faith tradition.

David Lose, assistant professor of homiletics, hopes congregations will financially assist their pastors in participating in the degree program.

“In my experience, every few years you need to do something to stay fresh in the pulpit. You can’t avoid getting stale if you don’t take steps to renew or refresh yourself. You have to learn something, read something, experience something new to get going again.”

Rogness receives many phone calls and e-mails from former students, usually about five years out in their ministry, who say, “I’ve said everything, I’ve said everything, what do I do now?”

Now, Rogness has a great response: “Enroll in Luther Seminary’s D.Min. in biblical preaching.”

For more information, a complete program schedule, or an online application, visit www.luthersem.edu/dmin.

You may also contact the graduate theological education office at 651-641-3203, or via e-mail at plotken@luthersem.edu.

Luther Seminary Student Crowned Miss Minnesota

By Robert Smith, ’03

On June 28, Luther Seminary student Megan Torgerson was crowned Miss Minnesota 2003. Torgerson, 23, is a second-year student in the M.Div. program. She is a graduate of Warren-Arvardano-Ol High School and Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.

Life around campus has been a little different for Torgerson since that winning weekend. “Before, I was just a seminary student—now there’s this idea that I’m a celebrity,” she said. “I get more than just ‘Hi!’ when I’m walking on campus. I get, ‘Hi! Are you Miss Minnesota?’”

The ribbing she’s received from her fellow student employees in the seminary’s financial aid & housing office has been enough to keep her humble. “When I came back, I was greeted by a nice color photo of myself taped to my desk,” she said. “They keep threatening to take it down since my 15 minutes of fame is up!”

Fifteen minutes, though, may be a low estimate: she will compete in the Miss America Scholarship Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., Sept. 17-20.

For all this hustle and bustle, Torgerson expects that the impact on her schoolwork will be small. “I’m a Minnesotan technically a part-time job,” Torgerson explained. “For my first semester, I’ll take a little less than a full load since I’ll be gone for most of September.”

After that, who knows what Torgerson’s schedule will look like. As she says, “Miss America is definitely a full-time job!”

But don’t think Torgerson would turn it down. “At the Miss America level, every young woman from every state is extremely accomplished and talented,” she said. “It’s a matter of who is considered to be a good fit for the Miss America organization.”

Torgerson’s pageant career began in the summer of 2000. “I ran for Miss Minnesota 2001.”

Now, Rogness has a great response: “I ran for Miss Minnesota 2002.”

“I made the top seven last year, got a little more scholarship money, and realized I wanted to do it again.”

This year, she won the title of Miss Coon Rapids, one of four open pageants held in Minnesota each year. Torgerson enjoyed a large delegation of supporters from Coon Rapids at the state-wide event.

Torgerson’s hometown lays claim to her as well. “I represented them at Miss Minnesota last year, so the Warren community is pretty excited as well,” she said.

In addition to being crowned Miss Minnesota, Torgerson won both the interview and talent portions of the competition. The latter was won with her rendition of “Una Voce Poco Fa,” an aria from Rossini’s “The Barber of Seville.” She will be singing the same piece during competition for the national title.

More than a national beauty contest, the Miss America organization competitions are more focused on the talents and achievements of their participants rather than other pageants. Someday, an ELCA congregation will be calling a former Miss Minnesota (and, possibly, a former Miss America) to be its pastor. Questions about how Torgerson plans to bring together these two realities were bound to come up.

Continued on next page
“People have asked me, ‘Pageant and pastor, how does that work together?’ It’s actually easy to do,” she said. “When I look at my call to ministry, I realize that I’ve been given gifts, talents and abilities that are valued by organizations beyond the church.

“I consider this to be another form of ministry. It is a different forum and a different group of people, but I get to speak to a wide variety of organizations, communities, schools and groups,” she added. “No when I speak, my message to them will not be just as a woman in pageants but as a person in the ministry.”

Torgerson’s platform issue, Taking Time to T.E.A.C.H. Tolerance, has already taken her into many venues. Using the acronym for ‘Talk, Educate, Teach, Correct, and Help,’ her goal is to help promote diversity and work to end hatred.

“It’s something I’ve been passionate about for a long time,” Torgerson said. “I’ve travelled quite a bit—in my talks, I discuss the roots of fear and hatred to help people be a little more inclusive.” In addition to Scandinavia and Europe, her travels have taken her to Israel and Southeast Asia. She has become convinced that diversity can shape society in constructive ways.

“I am honored and excited to have this opportunity,” Torgerson said of her participation in the Miss Minnesota pageant. “I am especially proud that the Luther Seminary community has been so supportive of this new opportunity in my life.”

Gracia Grindal, ’83, professor of rhetoric, helped lead a pilgrimage to Germany and the Czech Republic for the Mt. Carmel community this May and June. She wrote an article on Danish hymnwriter Thomas Kingo, who died 300 years ago, for the American Lutheran M usician’s journal ‘Cross Accents.’ This summer she worked on the drawings of Linnaeus, whose diary is being retranscribed for publication by the Luther College Press. Pres’ drawings are some of the first and only visual records of the earliest Norwegian American immigrants.

Mary Hess, assistant professor of educational leadership, wrote a chapter entitled “Practising Attention in Media Culture” for the new British publication Mediating Religion: Conversations in Media, Religion and Culture. As a member of the International Study Commission on Media, Religion and Culture, she participated in the Sacred Media conference in Jyvaskyla, Finland, and traveled to Rome to meet with university faculty and experts on orthodox Christianity and icons.

Hess was also named project director of the Seminary as Teaching A postulate, a grant from the Wabash Center that will allow Luther Seminary, Catholic Theological Union, Fuller Seminary and Princeton Seminary to explore how the strategic reorientation of theological training and learning in a new era of the church’s mission is grounded in their distinctive theological identities.

Mary Hinkle, ’86, associate professor of New Testament, published Signs of Belonging: Lutheran Marks of the Church and the Christian Life (Augsburg Fortress, 2003), part of the first set of Lutheran Voices books from the American Lutheran Musician’s Center for Lifelong Learning, spoke at the Consultation on Lay Witness in Chicago, Ill., in May. In June he visited congregations in Bismarck, Minot and Williston, N.D., to speak about Centered Life.

Augsburg Fortress Authors of the series participated in a book signing at Churchwide Assembly on Aug. 12. She also preached at the assembly.

Jean Justice, coordinator of ecumenical student enrollment, was elected to represent the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church at the General Conference gathering, April 27-May 7, 2004. The General Conference, which is the UMC’s international denominational decision-making body, meets every four years for two weeks of worship, study, dialogue, deliberation, discernment and decision-making.

Craig Koester, ’80, professor of New Testament, was a participant in the Johannine Seminar of the Society for New Testament Studies at Bonn, Germany, July 29-Aug. 1. At the international meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association in San Francisco in August he made a presentation on “Faith in the Gospel of John and Its Readers” for a panel on the Bible and Spirituality. This year he was appointed one of the associate editors for New Testament Studies, an international journal published by Cambridge University Press. He also delivered the conviction lecture at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn., on “Drained to the Light: Imagery in the Gospel of John” in September.


Patricia Lull, dean of students, and Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology, attended a three-day conference on “Doing Theology Through Hispanic Eyes,” as part of the Hispanic Theological Initiative at Churchwide Assembly on Aug. 12.

Sessions were held on the campus of St. Mark of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Ill. and addressed issues of theological methodology, scholarship, and recruitment of Latino seminarians. Lull hosted a reception for Luther Seminary alumni/ae and friends in conjunction with the Luther World Federation Assembly in Winnipeg in late July. In August, she led a seminar on “Tending the Holy” for the Fund for Theological Education seminary fellows at St. John University, Collegeville, Minn. The seminar addressed the necessity for personal and communal spiritual formation as part of theological education.

Alvin Luedke, assistant professor of rural ministry, spoke to the Dairyland Conference deenry of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin in May about what is happening with rural ministry at Luther Seminary. He will be actively involved with the Rural Church Network of North America’s meeting at Luther Seminary Oct. 2–4.


James Nestingen, ’71, is author of the newly released Martin Luther: A Life (Augsburg Fortress 2003). Nestingen combines his knowledge of Luther and Reformation history with his considerable storytelling skills to present this concise and compelling story of Martin Luther’s life and times. The book’s release was designed to correspond with the new motion picture on Martin Luther’s life.

Richard Nyssen, professor of Old Testament, spoke on the “Lament Psalms” at the 2003 Christikon Continuing Education Retreat, Northern Rockies Institute of Theology, Montana.

Alan Padgett, professor of systematic theology, published Introducing Christianity, (Orbis 2003) which he co-wrote with his spouse, Sally Brueynee. This book provides an excellent introduction for those with little or no formal understanding of the history or development of Christianity.

Janet Ramsey, associate professor of congregational care leadership, taught a course (with Dr. Susan M Cadden of the University of Wisconsin) on spiritual development at the Gerontological Institute of Pastoral Care at St. Paul’s M onastery, Maplewood, Minn., in July. This summer she interviewed life long Lutherans as part of a research project she’s conducting on spiritual resiliency and aging.

Gary Simpson, professor of systematic theology, spent July teaching at the Lutheran Seminary at the University of Comenius, Bratislava, Slovakia. His course with doctoral students has been on “Christianity and Society: The History and Future of Christian Thought.”

Mark Swanson, associate professor of Islamic Studies, gave a lecture at an international workshop entitled “The Encounter of Oriental Christianity...”
Richard Bliese

Academic Dean
Associate Professor of Mission

Richard Bliese is thrilled to be at Luther: “It’s the place to be. It’s as simple as that. There is so much innovation and energy here. Mission is essential to the seminary’s strategic plan and is being put together with the Lutheran identity of confessing in new and exciting ways. The best missiologists are gathering here, and I’m honored to be part of that.”

Richard Bliese spent 11 years as a missionary in Germany and Zaire, where he founded the Centre d’Accueil Protestant, an ecumenical center for education, research and technical assistance. But he emphasizes that even those who never leave their hometown will be called to a missionary existence. All leaders trained for ministry will have to work within a context of religious and ethnic diversity. In today’s world, mission is “global”—both global and local.

“Our goal at Luther is to prepare leaders who are capable, ready and able to cross cultural and religious boundaries with the gospel,” Bliese says. “Our focus is to constantly improve our ‘sending’ capacity. We are preparing leaders for true discipleship and their apostolic calls within a world that is rapidly changing. Therefore, we want to maintain both faithful to our Lord and on the cutting edge of theological education and ministry.”

In addition to his teaching duties, Bliese serves as Luther’s academic dean. In this capacity, he works with the faculty to determine the nature and quality of theological education—to establish the ethos and direction of the school. As dean, Bliese also works to ensure that the time students spend at Luther is dynamic and inspiring. “We are striving to provide a student-centered and mission-driven education for the future leaders of the church. I’m excited to be a part of that!”

NEW FACULTY

Faculty & Staff Notes (continued)

with Early Islam” at the University of Erfurt, Germany, in early June. In July he participated in a conference on “The Sharia Debate and the Shaping of Mūsīm and Christian Identities in Northern Nigeria” in Bayreuth, Germany. This conference was one part of a study project crafted by Friedrich Ludwig, associate professor of mission and world Christianity. In between conferences, he spent a month in Cairo doing research for a number of projects, including a book on the Popes of the Coptic Church (AD 463-1317) and the history of the Coptic Church in Egypt under Islam in the Middle Ages.

Diane Jacobson, professor of Old Testament, will teach a five-part class on the Old Testament at Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina, Minn. on Sundays Sept. 14-Oct. 12.

Shauna Hannan, ’98, associate director of admissions, will speak on “Life in Minsky” at the Saints Alive! church youth gathering at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., on Nov. 1.

Diane Jacobson, professor of Old Testament, will preach on “Jubilee” at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis on Nov. 9. She will lead a Bible study at the Lutheran Women’s Circle on Islam Nov. 23-24 in Atlanta, and present a paper on “Palms and Wisdom: Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?” at the AAR/SBL conference in Atlanta Nov. 22-25.


Lois Malcolm, associate professor of systematic theology, will speak on the “Cross and Resurrection” at the Fall Theological Conference of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod in Grand Rapids, Minn., Sept. 28-30.

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Associate Professor of Mission

The pastoral position was an opportunity to directly apply his doctoral work in missiology to an American congregation.

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Rolf Jacobson
Assistant Professor of Old Testament

Rolf Jacobson’s goal is to help students develop the skills and intellectual habits that will help them interpret biblical texts for themselves. “We cannot teach future ministers everything they will need to know about ministry in their years at seminary,” he says. “I wanted to have a more direct connection with the church’s mission, as both a teacher and a writer.”

In his writing, Jacobson deals with the Old Testament’s reflections on theology and ethics as well as its psalms and poetry. He writes for pastors, lay people and teaching theologians, and he strives to “bring biblical scholarship to bear on the mission of the church.”

Ordained in 1991, Jacobson served for five years as associate pastor of Como Park Lutheran Church in St. Paul before continuing his education at Princeton Theological Seminary. “There is no disjunction between teaching and being a pastor,” he says. “I am still a pastor, just in a different context.”

Although his courses focus on the Old Testament, Jacobson emphasizes that he teaches people not texts: “I love bringing the Bible to the sense of call,” he says. “I wanted to help them interpret biblical texts for intellectual habits that will help spiritual growth. In addition, it can function as a catalyst for change and growth within a congregation.

Before coming to Luther, Jacobson taught religion at Augsburg College. “I came to the seminary out of a sense of call,” he says. “I wanted to have a more direct connection with the church’s mission, as both a teacher and a writer.”

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Rolf Jacobson

The ‘60s
James A. Ray, ’66, was selected to serve as president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. In this capacity, he will lead the 1,700 member National Council and oversee a 30-member board of trustees. He is in his third term as administrative judge for the Lucas County (Ohio) Juvenile Court.

James has been active both in local community organizations and on the national level, particularly in developing a curriculum for training community leaders in adolescent substance abuse prevention programs. He spent ten years serving as a parish pastor before becoming a referee in the Lucas County court system. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Toledo. They have two sons and two grandchildren.

The ‘70s
Dean Johnson, ’73, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the Army National Guard. Johnson, who serves as the state chaplain of the Minnesota Army National Guard, was selected to become the Special Assistant to the Chief of Chaplains, National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C. In addition to this position, he is a state senator from District 13 and a part-time pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar.

The ‘80s
Scot Sorenson, ’84, and his wife, Kathryn, had a baby boy, Kai Jacob, in July. Scot serves as pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Sacramento, Calif.

Jon V. Anderson, ’85, was elected to serve as bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA in June. He leaves his call at Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Ulm, Minn. He and his wife, Robyn Sand Anderson, live in New Ulm with their three children, Laura, Sean, and Caitlyn.

The ‘90s
Sonja Hagander, ’94, and her husband, Jonathan Gusdal, celebrated the birth of their first child, Benjamin, in January. She is a campus pastor at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

The ‘00s
Gayle Highness, ’03, received her first call to Christ Lutheran Church, Nauvoo, Ill. She was ordained in Fargo, Minn., on June 29 and began serving at the congregation the week of July 7.

Dale Stiles, ’96, has accepted a new call to serve as solo pastor at Fish Lake Lutheran Church, Harris, Minn. He began serving there on June 1, 2003. Previously he served seven years as youth pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, Minn.

Nicholas Wilkens, ’96, received his Ph.D. in counseling from St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, Texas, in December, 2001. He is a licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, and a board-approved supervisor of counselor interns. He was consecrated as a diaconal minister in the ELCA on June 1, 2003, at Faith Lutheran Church in Seguin, Texas. On June 14, he married Ashley Nelson. He currently serves as the director of the Guadalupe Valley Christian Counseling Center in Seguin.

Jeffrey A. Iverson, ’97, was appointed editor of Tischreden: A Newsletter and Theological Forum for Pastors of the LMS-USA. He was chosen by the Ministerium of the Lutheran Minsiterium and Synod-USA at its annual convention in Indianapolis in June 2003. He is pastor of Word of God Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Matt Hausken, ’99, and his wife, Sarah, celebrated the birth of their first child, Leif John, in May. Matt serves as pastor at Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church in O’Iviva, Minn.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Annual Burgess Lecture
Oct. 6
10 a.m.
Chapel of the Incarnation
Guest Speaker: Ogba Kalu, Henry W. Luce Chair for World Christianity and Mission, McCormick Theological Seminary

Ventures in Vocation
Oct. 12-13
Immerse yourself in seminary life for two days, examine your own sense of call, your gifts and the possibility of ministry in the church. Ventures in Vocation is designed with post-college professionals in mind. Registration is required and the cost is $35 per person, due Oct. 3. Housing and meals are provided. Transportation to and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport is available. For more information or to register online, visit www.luthersem.edu/admissions/Ventures, or contact the office of admissions at 651-523-1730, or 800-588-4373.

“The Legacy of Jesus for Jews and Christians”
Oct. 21
7 p.m.
Chapel of the Incarnation
Amy-Jill Levine, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., and director of the Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender and Sexuality.

Jews and Christians agree that Jesus of Nazareth was Jewish, but beyond this fact our ways part. Christians too often see Jesus either as rejecting Jewish tradition or as a universal figure with no connection to Jewish belief and practice. Jews too often fail to recognize Jesus as one of “our own”: a man whose ethical commitments and theological concerns were thoroughly Jewish. For two millennia Jesus has pulled Church and Synagogue apart; by recognizing Jesus as a Jew faithful to his tradition, Jews and Christians today can find in Jesus a catalyst for interfaith dialogue.

“Restoring the Dignity of the Human Spirit,” Eleventh Annual Word & World Lecture
Oct. 13
10 a.m.
Chapel of the Incarnation
Douglas A. Johnson, executive director, Center for Victims of Torture, Minneapolis, Minn.

Race, Church & Change Award
Oct. 14, 10 a.m.
Chapel of the Incarnation
This award recognizes individuals who have facilitated reconciliation among diverse people and demonstrated commitment to constructive change that heals and nurtures communities. The award will be presented in chapel; a reception will follow. This year’s recipient is Roland Miller, professor emeritus of missions, and founding director of the Islamic Studies Program at Luther Seminary.

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These lectures focus on topics important to Christian ministry in today’s world. The lectures are sponsored by Word & World, a scholarly theological journal published by Luther Seminary.

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You may also call the bookstore at 651-641-3440, or toll free 1-800-541-4187.

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www.lutherseminary.edu/refest
of (651) 641-3451.

Reformation Festival, Oct. 25-26, 2003
Join Luther Seminary and friends for a musical celebration of the Reformation and Lutheran heritage!

Songfest
Saturday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m., Central Lutheran Church
222 South 12th Street, Minneapolis, free Festival. This special session of hymns will feature the Gustavus Adolphus College choir, under the direction of Gregory Aune, and a massed choir from Twin Cities churches.

Festival Buffet
Sunday, Oct. 26, 5 p.m., Dining Room, Olson Campus Center
Luther Seminary, 1490 Ful捋ham Street, St. Paul. Pre-registration required. Tickets are $12.50 per person. Call (651) 641-3449 for reservations.

Singing the Faith
Sunday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m., Chapel of the Incarnation
Luther Seminary, 1490 Ful捋ham Street, St. Paul, free Festival. This musical evening will focus on the Apostles’ Creed and celebrate the works of Swedish hymn writer Lisa Sandahl and Danish hymn writer Thomas Kings. The service will feature the Roseville Lutheran Church Choir, under the direction of John Helgen, and a selection of Region’s compositions.